

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims

The following is a marked-up version of the claims with the language that is underlined (“ ”) being added and the language that contains strikethrough (“”) being deleted.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for transparent file proxying, the method comprising:
 - coupling a plurality of computing devices to a local area network, each of said plurality of computing devices including a local memory element containing a plurality of files, at least one of said plurality of computing device coupled to a wide area network;
 - coupling a remote memory element to said wide area network, said remote memory element configured to maintain a copy of the first file selected from said plurality of files contained in the local memory elements of said plurality of computing devices;
 - said at least one of said plurality of computing devices to a wide area communication network;
 - coupling a remote computing device to said remote memory element;
 - intercepting, in said remote memory element, an Internet Protocol (IP) communication message from said remote computing device, said IP communication message corresponding to a request from a first user to access a requested file; and
 - providing information corresponding to said copy of said first file to said remote computing device from said remote memory element without said IP communication message traversing said wide area communication network and said local area network if the first user is authorized to access said requested file and if said requested file corresponds to said first file;

wherein, if the first user is authorized access, said remote memory element updates said copy of said first file in response to receiving information corresponding to a modification of said first file from said remote computing device; and

wherein, after the remote memory element updates said copy of said first file, said remote memory device causes said first file to be updated.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said at least one of said plurality of computing devices periodically updates said copy of said first file maintained in said remote memory element.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said copy of said first file is chosen to be maintained in said remote memory element based upon at least one of a plurality of policies, wherein said plurality of policies are chosen from the group consisting of user policies, group policies and corporate policies.

4. – 5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently Amended) A system for transparent file proxying, comprising:
a local network to which is coupled a plurality of computing devices, at least one of said plurality of computing devices including the ability to route communication packets to said remaining plurality of computing devices, each of said plurality of computing devices including a memory element containing a plurality of files;

a communication network coupled to said at least one of said plurality of computing devices;

a remote memory element coupled to said communication network;

a remote computing device connected to said remote memory element, said remote memory element configured to intercept an Internet Protocol (IP) communication message from said remote computing device, said remote memory element configured to maintain a copy of a first file selected from said plurality of files contained in the memory elements of said plurality of computing devices; and

wherein said remote memory element is configured to provide information corresponding to said copy of the first file to said remote computing device in response to said remote memory element:

intercepting said IP communication message from said remote computing device,

determining that the first user is authorized access, and

determining that said file corresponds to said first file,

said IP communication message corresponding to a request from the first user to access said first file from one of said plurality of computing devices connected to said local network, thus providing information corresponding to said copy of the first file to said remote computing device without said IP communication message traversing said communication network and said local area network;

wherein said remote memory element updates said copy of said first file in response to receiving information corresponding to a modification of said first file from said remote computing device; and

wherein, after the remote memory element updates said copy of said first file, said remote memory device causes said first file to be updated.

7. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 6, wherein said at least one of said plurality of computing devices periodically updates said selected file maintained in said remote memory element.
8. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 6, wherein said copy of said first file is chosen to be maintained in said remote memory element based upon at least one of a plurality of policies, wherein said plurality of policies are chosen from the group consisting of user policies, group policies and corporate policies.
9. (Canceled)
10. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 6, wherein, if the first user is authorized access, said remote memory element updates said copy of said first file in response to receiving information corresponding to a modification of said first file from said remote computing device.
11. – 20. (Canceled)
21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein, in determining whether the first user is authorized access to said file, if the user is authorized access to said file but a copy of said file is not stored locally by said remote memory device, said remote computing device forwards said IP communication message via said wide area communication network and said local area network such that said remote computing device is able to retrieve a copy of said first file.

22. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 6, wherein, in determining whether the first user is authorized access to said file, if the user is authorized access to said file but a copy of said file is not stored locally by said remote memory device, said remote computing device forwards said IP communication message via said wide area communication network and said local area network such that said remote computing device is able to retrieve a copy of said first file.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
preventing the user from obtaining information corresponding to said file from said remote memory element if the user is not authorized access to said file.